

National Counterterrorism Center





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PATHWAYS TO EXTREMIST VIOLENCE PROJECT

NCTC SPECIAL ANALYSIS REPORT 2014-74 14 March 2014



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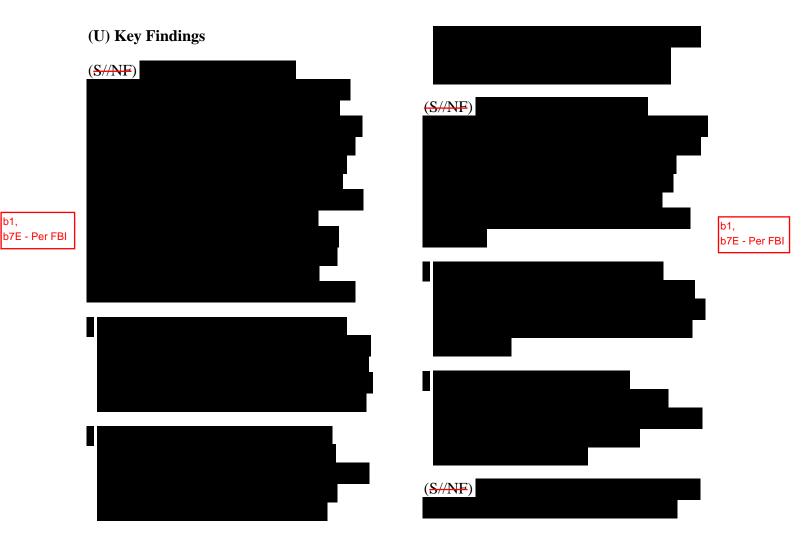
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Pathways to Extremist Violence Project

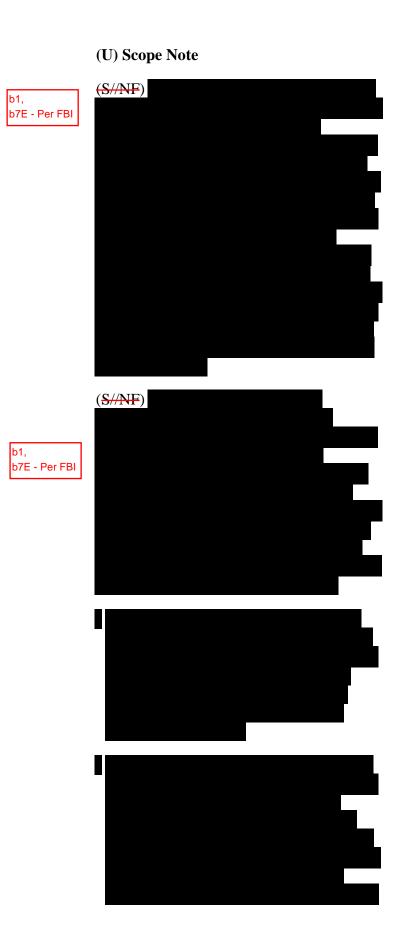
NSAR 2014-74 14 March 2014



(U) This report was prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Radicalization and Extremist Messages Group, NCTC, on secure or Chief, Behavioral Analysis Unit I, Critical Incident Response Group, FBI on (703) 632-4219.

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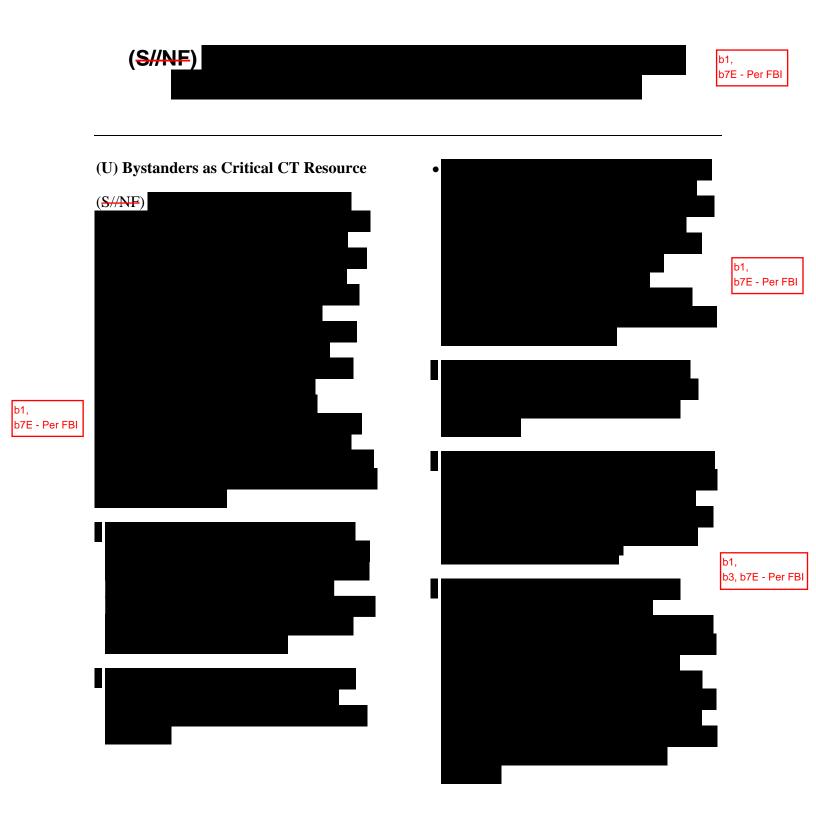


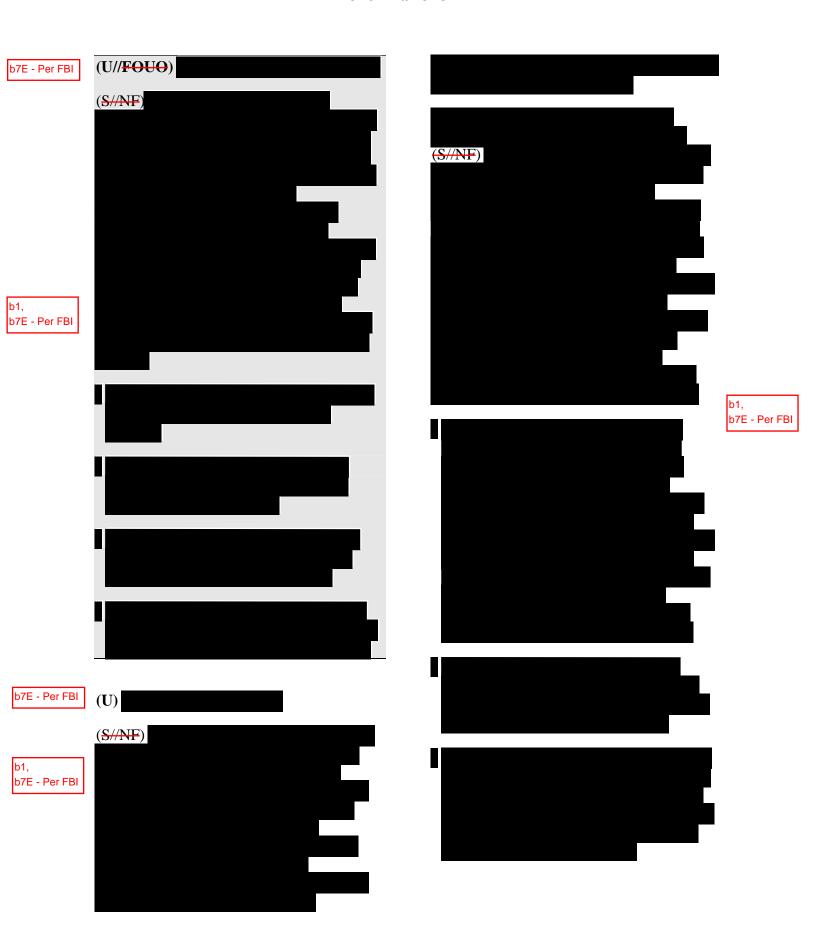
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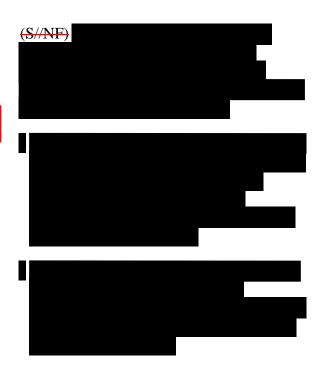
(U) Key Terms

- (U) **Person of Concern**: An individual under FBI investigation or initially unknown to FBI who has demonstrated to a bystander potentially concerning behavior indicative of violent extremism.
- **(U) Concerning Behavior or Activity**: A behavior or activity that may indicate radicalization or mobilization to violence.
- (U) Radicalization: The process by which individuals come to believe that engagement in or facilitation of nonstate violence to achieve social and political change is necessary and justified.
- **(U) Mobilization to Violence:** The process by which radicalized individuals prepare for or engage in violence or material support for violence in support of their beliefs.
- (U) **Bystander(s):** Individuals—such as family members, peers, authority figures, and strangers—whose relationship and level of interaction with a person of concern enables them to witness or become aware of activities or behavior that may indicate radicalization or mobilization to violence. Some bystanders in the study made attempts to counter a person's concerning behavior and thus were not simply onlookers or spectators, as the term *bystander* traditionally implies.

- (U) Interrupt: An action that stops individuals who manifest potential concerning behaviors or activities from pursuing radicalization or mobilization activities; such behavior or activity does not need to be unlawful.
- (U) **Disrupt:** An action that stops individuals from pursuing or engaging in criminal or terrorist activities; such extremists either have been arrested by law enforcement or killed while engaging in or supporting terrorism abroad.
- **(U) Rechannel:** An action that diverts persons of concern from mobilizing to violence by providing other opportunities through which they can address perceived grievances.



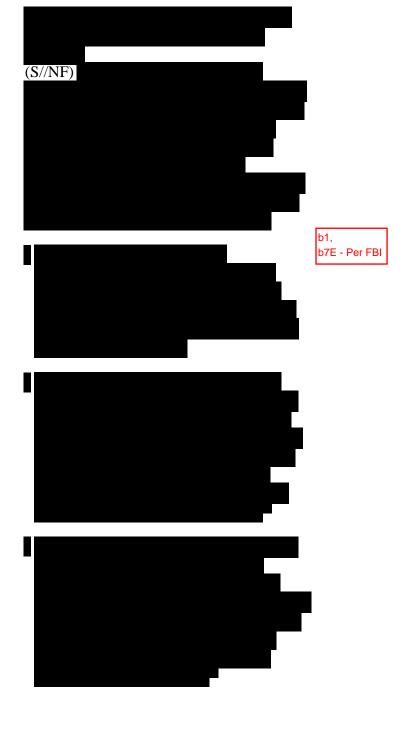




(U) Bystander Awareness in Other Violent Situations

(U) A review of other types of violent acts demonstrates that frequently at least one bystander—usually known to the attacker—had knowledge of concerning behavior before an incident. In some cases, bystanders knew the attacker's entire plan.

- In more than 80 percent of 37 identified school shooting incidents between 1974 and 2000—involving 41 attackers—at least one person knew about the attacker's idea, intent, or actual attack plan, according to a Secret Service report on school violence.²
- In more than 60 percent of the 74 attempted assassinations of prominent US officials and celebrities that occurred during the period 1949-1996, the attacker or attackers communicated intent to friends, relatives, or others, according to an academic study.³



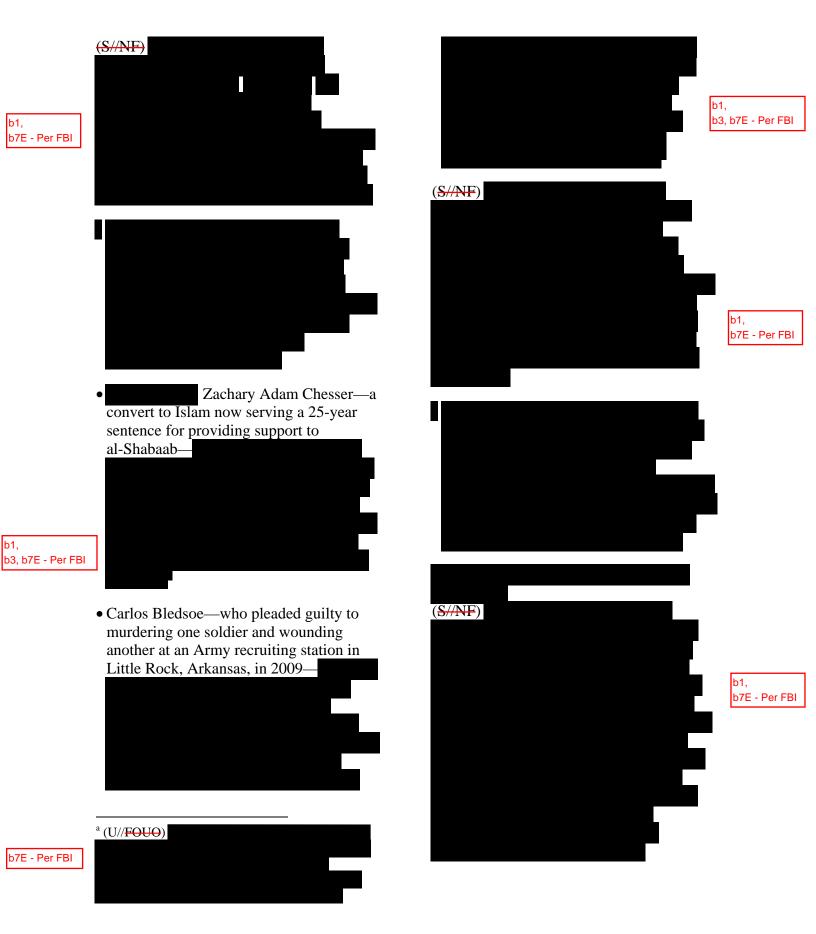
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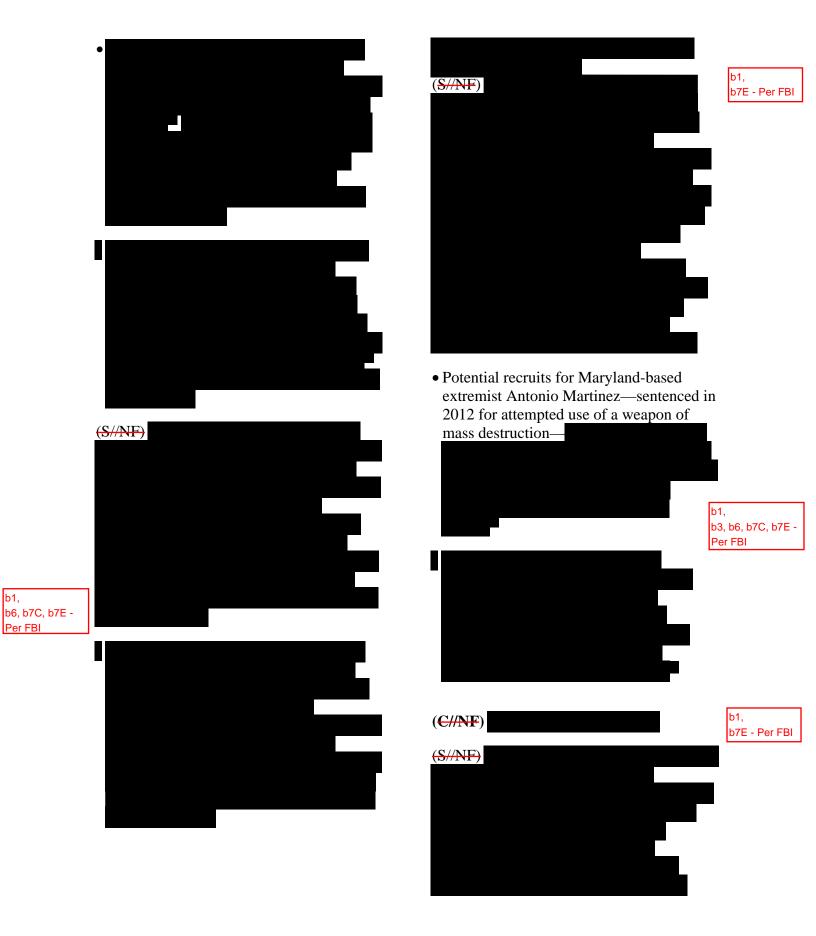
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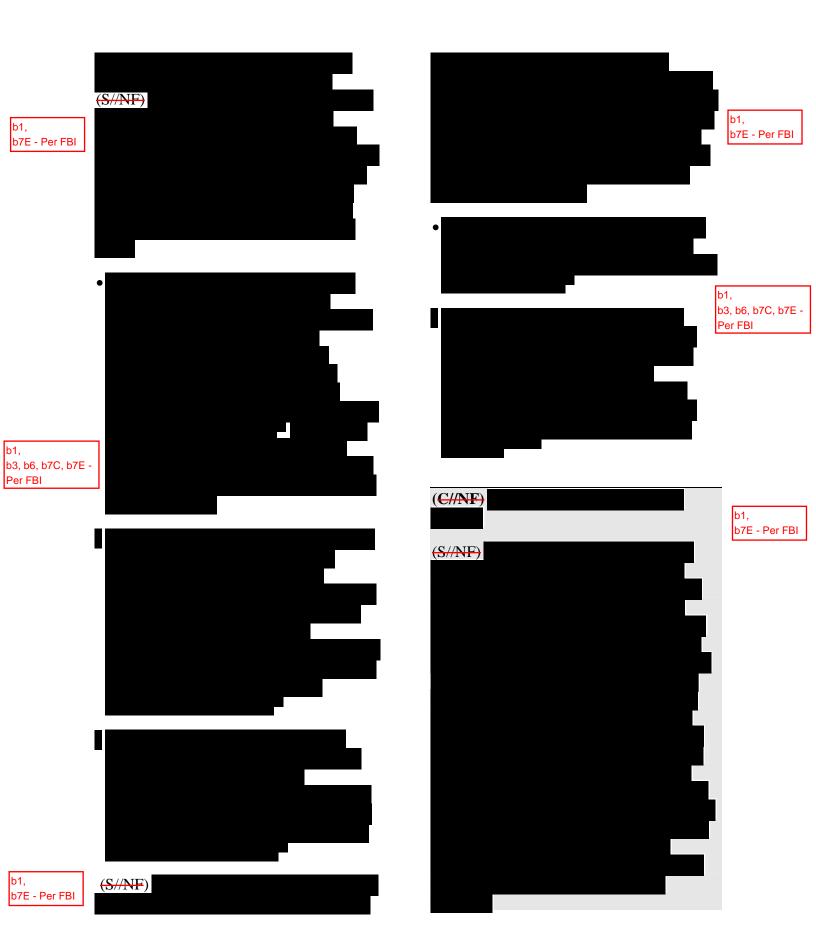
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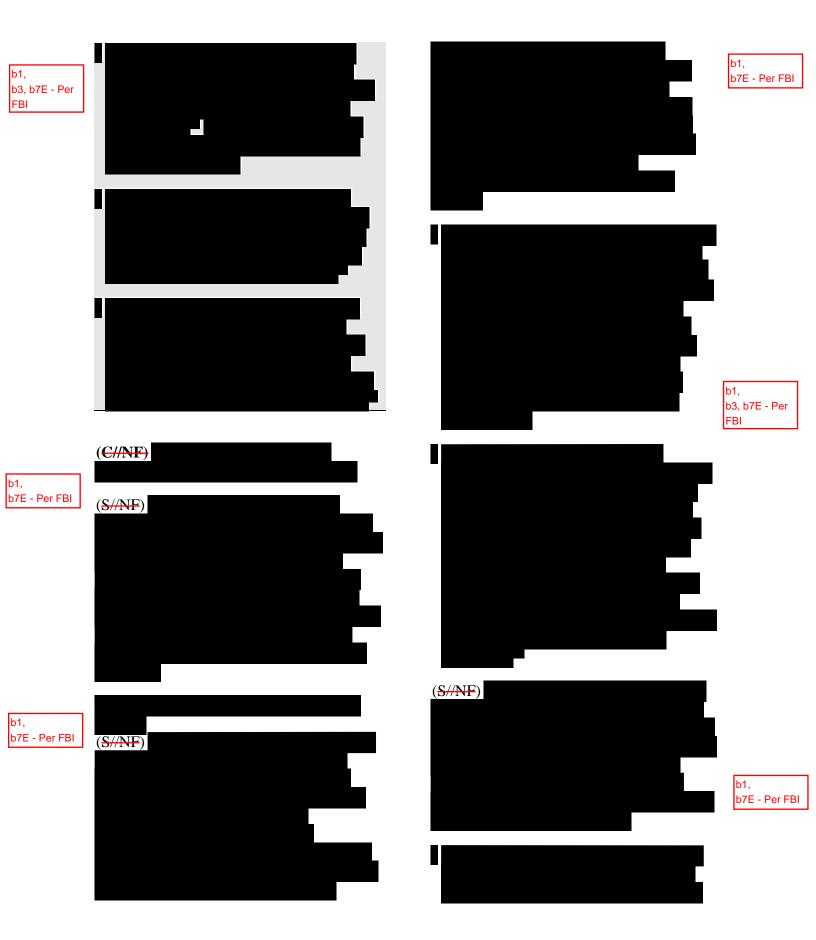






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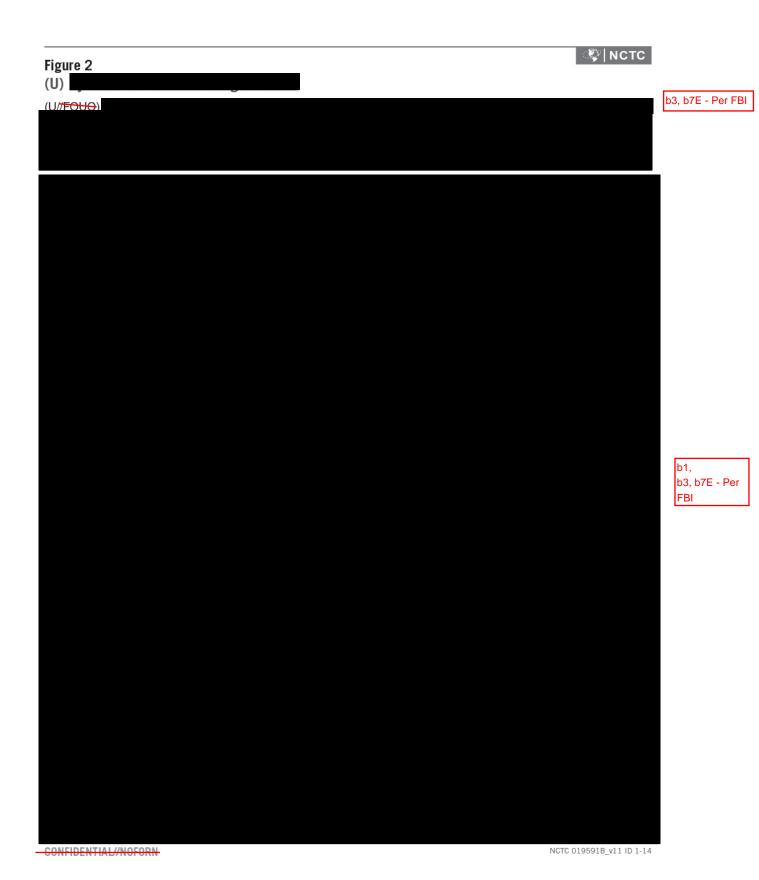




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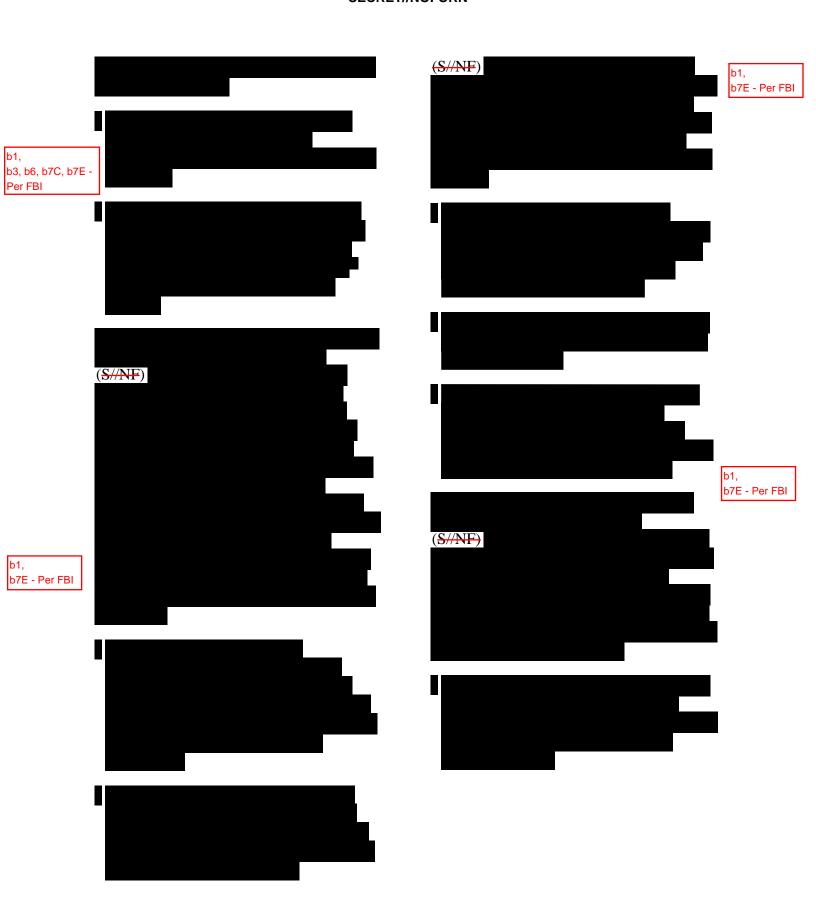


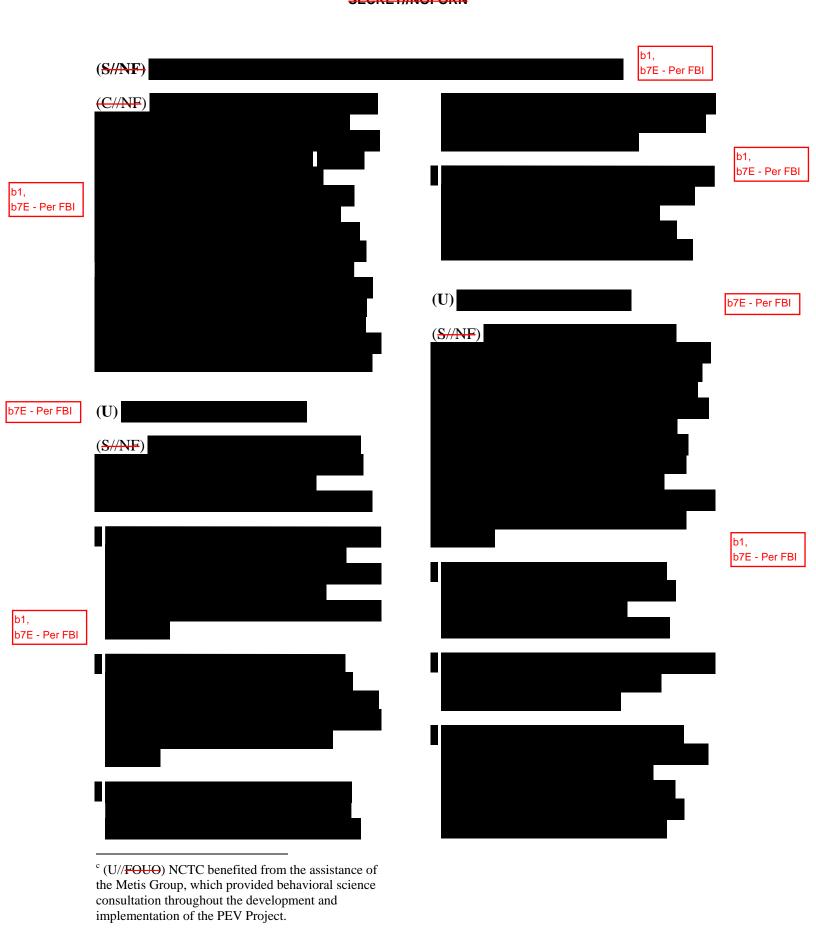
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(C//NF) Appendix B: FBI Study Subjects

- **(U) Abdo, Jason:** Plotted to kill US soldiers and others near Fort Hood, Texas in July 2011; was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 2012.³³
- (U) **Abdul-Latif, Khalid:** Plotted to attack Seattle, Washington, military processing center in June 2011; pleaded guilty and in March 2013 was sentenced to 18 years in prison.³⁴
- (U) Abdulmutallab, Abdul Farouk: Attempted to bomb Northwest Airlines flight 253 bound for Detroit, Michigan, on Christmas Day 2009; in February 2012 was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty.³⁵



- **(U) Ahmed, Farooque:** Helped plot multiple bombings at Metrorail stations in Washington, DC, area; in 2010 was arrested and in April 2011 sentenced to 23 years in prison.³⁷
- (U) Ahmedzay, Zarein: Conspired to use explosive devices to conduct attack on Manhattan subway lines in New York City; in April 2010 pleaded guilty and as of March 2014 awaits sentencing. 3839
- **(U) Aldawsari, Khalid:** Plotted to use explosive device against persons or property in Texas; in November 2012 was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.⁴⁰
- (U) Alessa, Mahmood: Conspired to murder individuals overseas on behalf of al-Shabaab in Somalia; in June 2010 was arrested in Newark, New Jersey; pleaded

guilty and was sentenced in April 2013 to 22 years in prison.⁴¹



(U) Almonte, Carlos: Conspired to murder individuals overseas on behalf of al-Shabaab; in June 2010 was arrested in Newark and pleaded guilty; in April 2013 was sentenced to 20 years in prison.⁴⁴



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- **(U) Bana, Jamal:** Part of second wave of Somali-American recruits to join and fight for al-Shabaab in Somalia; reported dead in July 2009. 4647
- (U) **Baxam, Craig:** Attempted to join al-Shabaab and was captured by Kenyan authorities before entering Somalia; sentenced to seven years in prison in January 2014.⁴⁸⁴⁹
- (U) **Begolly, Emerson:** Attempted to encourage others to commit acts of terrorism in US and distributed information related to explosives on line; in August 2011 pleaded guilty in Pennsylvania and in July 2013 was sentenced to eight years and six months in prison.⁵⁰
- (U) Berry, Stanley Reed: Attempted to use his vehicle to assault two law enforcement officers in Michigan who were surveilling him; pleaded guilty on attempted assault charge and in April 2012 was sentenced to almost eight years in prison.⁵¹

- (U) **Bledsoe, Juan Carlos:** Shot and killed one soldier and wounded another at US Army-Navy Career Center in Little Rock, Arkansas; was arrested in June 2009; pleaded guilty and in July 2011 was sentenced to life in prison for capital murder.⁵²
- (U) **Boyd, Daniel Patrick:** Conspired to provide material support to terrorists and to murder, kidnap, maim, and injure persons abroad; was arrested in North Carolina in July 2009 and sentenced to 18 years in prison.⁵³
- (U) **Bujol, Barry Walter:** Attempted to travel to Yemen to join AQAP; was arrested in June 2010 in Houston, Texas, convicted in November 2011, and sentenced to 20 years in prison in May 2012.⁵⁴
- (C//NF) Chaudry, Umar: In December 2009 secretly traveled to Pakistan to join insurgent groups fighting US forces in Afghanistan; in June 2010 was sentenced to 10 years in prison by Pakistani court. 55
- (U) Chesser, Zachary Adam: Provided material support to al-Shabaab and threatened writers of *South Park* television show; in February 2011 was sentenced in Virginia to 25 years in prison.⁵⁶
- (U) Cromitie, James: Plotted to blow up synagogue and Jewish community center in New York and to shoot down aircraft at National Guard base; in June 2011 was sentenced to 25 years in prison.⁵⁷
- (U) Ferdaus, Rezwan: Plotted to attack US Capitol and Pentagon using large, radio-controlled model aircraft outfitted with explosives and GPS; in November 2012 was sentenced to 17 years in prison.⁵⁸
- **(U) Finton, Michael:** Attempted to murder federal employees and use weapons of mass

- destruction at federal building in Springfield, Illinois; was arrested in September 2009; pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 28 years in prison.⁵⁹
- (U) Hadzovic, Suljemah: Traveled to Egypt in February 2009 hoping to join al-Shabaab or another terrorist organization operating in conflict zone, including Afghanistan, Iraq, or Pakistan; returned to US and cooperated with authorities.⁶⁰
- (U) **Hanafi, Wesam:** Provided material support to al-Qa'ida associates in Yemen and elsewhere; in 2010 was arrested in UAE and in June 2012 pleaded guilty. ⁶¹
- **(U) Hasan, Nidal:** In November 2009 killed 13 and wounded 32 others in shooting at Fort Hood, Texas; in August 2013 was court-martialed and sentenced to death. ⁶²
- (U) **Hasanoff, Sabirhan:** Provided material support to al-Qa'ida associates in Yemen and elsewhere; was arrested in 2010 in UAE and in June 2012 pleaded guilty; was sentenced in September 2013 to 18 years in prison. ⁶³
- (U) **Headley, David:** Helped plan November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, and another proposed attack on Danish newspaper; in January 2013 was sentenced to 35 years in prison.⁶⁴
- **(U) Khalid, Mohammed:** Conspired with Colleen LaRose to provide material support to terrorists; in 2011 was arrested in
- Maryland and in May 2012 pleaded guilty; as of March 2014 awaits sentencing. 6566
- (U) **Khan, Samir:** Former editor of *Inspire*, AQAP's English-language online magazine; in September 2011 was killed in Yemen while colocated with Anwar Al-Aulagi.⁶⁷

- (C//NF) Khan, Waqar: In December 2009 secretly traveled to Pakistan to join insurgent groups fighting US forces in Afghanistan; in June 2010 sentenced to 10 years in prison by Pakistani court. 68
- (U) LaRose, Colleen: Conspired to kill Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks; in October 2009 was arrested and in February 2011 pleaded guilty to all counts in Pennsylvania; in January 2014 was sentenced to 10 years in prison.⁶⁹
- **(U) Martinez, Antonio:** Attempted to detonate VBIED at Armed Forces recruiting station in Catonsville, MD; in December 2010 was arrested and in April 2012 was sentenced to 25 years in prison.⁷⁰
- (U) Masri, Shaker: Planned to travel to Somalia to join al-Shabaab; in July 2010 pleaded guilty to providing material support to al-Shabaab; was sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison.⁷¹
- (U) Medunjanin, Adis: Conspired to use explosive devices to conduct attack on Manhattan subway lines in New York City; in February 2012 was found guilty and in November 2012 was sentenced to life in prison.⁷²
- (U) Mehanna, Tarek: Plotted to kill two prominent US politicians and shoot others at shopping malls; in October 2009 was arrested in Boston, Massachusetts, and in April 2012 was sentenced to 17 years and six months in prison.⁷³
- (U) Melaku, Yonathan: In October and November 2010 destroyed federal property and shot at military installations in Northern Virginia; in January 2013 pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.⁷⁴
- (**C//NF**) **Minni, Ahmed:** In December 2009 secretly traveled to Pakistan to join

- insurgent groups fighting US forces in Afghanistan; in June 2010 was sentenced to 10 years in prison by Pakistani court.⁷⁵
- **(U) Mobley, Sharif:** In March 2010 was arrested in Yemen for links to AQAP; was shot by security guard while in custody. ⁷⁶⁷⁷
- (U) **Mohammed, Jude Kenan:** Conspired to provide material support to terrorists and to murder, kidnap, maim, and injure persons abroad; in July 2009 fled to Pakistan and in November 2011 was killed.⁷⁸
- (U) Morton, Jesse Curtis: Cofounder of extremist group Revolution Muslim; pleaded guilty to conspiring to solicit murder and making threatening communications; in June 2012 was sentenced to 11 years and six months in prison.⁷⁹
- (U) **Mujahid, Walli:** In June 2011 plotted to attack Seattle, Washington, military processing center; in December 2011 pleaded guilty and in April 2013 was sentenced to 17 years in prison.⁸⁰
- (U) Osmakac, Sami: Plotted to attack busy Tampa Bay, Florida, restaurant; take hostages; and demand release of Muslim prisoners. In February 2012 a Florida judge entered plea of not guilty; as of March 2014 Osmakac was awaiting trial.⁸¹
- (U) Ouazzani, Khalid: Provided material support to al-Qa'ida, including through bank fraud and money laundering that provided more than \$23,000 to group; in May 2010 pleaded guilty in Missouri; in October 2013 was sentenced to 14 years in prison. 82
- (U) Pimentel, Jose: Charged with conspiracy, first-degree criminal possession of weapon as crime of terrorism, and soliciting support for terrorist act; pleaded not guilty in New York; pleaded guilty in

February 2014 and as of March 2014 awaits sentencing.⁸³

- (U) Ramirez, Jamie Paulin: Conspired to provide material support to terrorists while involved with Colleen LaRose in plot to kill Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks; was sentenced in January 2014 to eight years in prison. 84
- (U) Robertson, Marcus Dwayne: Suspected of facilitating travel for US-based extremists seeking training overseas; in 2010 pleaded guilty in Orlando, Florida, for being convicted felon in possession of firearm and conspiring to defraud US Government; as of March 2014 awaits sentencing. 85
- (U) Rockwood, Nadia: Pleaded guilty in July 2010 to making false statements related to her husband's case; was permitted to return to UK and serve five years' probation. 86
- (U) Rockwood, Paul: Planned assassinations of multiple US citizens, including military service members in Alaska; pleaded guilty in July 2010 to making false statements to federal agents and received eight years in prison in August 2010.⁸⁷
- (U) Shahzad, Faizal: In May 2010 attempted and failed to detonate VBIED in New York City's Times Square; pleaded guilty to all counts and in October 2010 was sentenced to life in prison.⁸⁸
- (U) Shehadeh, Abdel Hameed: Provided false statements about his attempted travel to Pakistan to join terrorist group; in March 2013 was convicted in New York and in September 2013 was sentenced to 13 years in prison.⁸⁹

- (U) Sherifi, Hysen: Conspired to provide material support to terrorists and to murder, kidnap, maim, and injure persons abroad; was convicted in North Carolina on conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and in May 2013 was sentenced to life in prison. 90
- (U) **Subasic, Anes:** Conspired to provide material support to terrorists and to murder, kidnap, maim, and injure persons abroad; in August 2012 was sentenced in North Carolina to 30 years in prison. ⁹¹
- (C//NF) Yemer, Ahmad: In December 2009 secretly traveled to Pakistan to join insurgent groups fighting US forces in Afghanistan; in June 2010 was sentenced to 10 years in prison by Pakistani court. 92
- (U) Yusuf, Nima Ali: Conspired to provide material support to al-Shabaab and made false statements to government agency regarding international terrorism matter; pleaded guilty and was sentenced in California to eight years in prison in December 2012. 93
- (C//NF) Zamzam, Ramy: In December 2009 secretly traveled to Pakistan to join insurgent groups fighting US forces in Afghanistan; in June 2010 was sentenced to 10 years in prison by Pakistani court. 94
- (U) Zazi, Najibullah: Conspired to use weapons of mass destruction, to commit murder overseas, and to provide material support for terrorist organization; in February 2010 pleaded guilty in New York and as of March 2014 awaits sentencing. 9596









